means for generating a second visual representation of a plurality of the records from the set;

means for receiving input from a user selecting a subset of the records on the surface map;

means for analyzing an index to determine if one or more records in the selected subset are shown in another view; and

means for altering the second visual representation based on the input, when one or more records in the selected subset are shown in the second visual representation.

REMARKS

Applicants have, by this Amendment, cancelled claims 11, 15 and 18, without disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Furthermore, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 8, 12-13 and 16-17 to more appropriately claim the subject matter of the present invention.

The Office Action is unclear as to which claims are rejected under 102(e) and which are rejected under 103(a). Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner provide a clear statement of the grounds of rejection for each claim. As best understood, in the Office Action claims 1-7, 9, 12, 15, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,986,673 to Martz; and claims 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Martz in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,619,709 to Caid et al. Applicants respectfully disagree.

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In order to properly anticipate applicants' claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), each and every element of the claim in issue must be found either expressly described or under principles of inherency, in a single prior art reference. Furthermore, "[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." See M.P.E.P. § 2131 (8th Ed. Aug. 2001), quoting Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F. 2d 1126, 1236, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Finally, "[t]he elements must be arranged as required by the claim." M.P.E.P. § 2131 (8th ed. 2001). Regarding the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection, Martz does not teach each and every element of applicants present invention as claimed.

Independent claim 1 recites a combination including, for example, "generating a second visual representation of a plurality of the records in the set." Applicants respectfully submit to the Examiner that at least this feature is not disclosed by Martz. Martz displays, in a second view, the object name, attribute name and value for the object over which the mouse is positioned. See Col. 11, lines 4-10. Applicants submit that the listing of attributes of a single record is not "generating a second visual representation of a plurality of the records in the set," as recited in claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is therefore allowable. Furthermore, applicants submit that dependent claims 2-11, depending therefrom, are also allowable.

Independent claim 12 recites a combination including for example, "linking the surface map to a set of views, wherein at least one of the views comprises a visual representation of a plurality of the records in the set." Applicants respectfully submit to the Examiner that at least this feature is not disclosed by Martz. Martz displays, in a second view, the object name, attribute name and value for the object over which the

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mouse is positioned. See Col. 11, lines 4-10. Even if the second view in Martz could be said to be linked to the surface map, the second view contains information only about a single record. Martz therefore does not disclose or suggest "linking the surface map to a set of views, wherein at least one of the views comprises a visual representation of a plurality of the records in the set," as recited in claim 12. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 12 is therefore allowable.

The rejection of claims 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Martz and Caid is respectfully traversed, since a prima facie case of obviousness has not been made y the Examiner.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), each of three requirements must be met. First, the reference or references taken alone or in combination, must teach or suggest each and every element recited in the claims. See M.P.E.P. § 2143.03 (8th ed. 2001). Second, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves, or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to combine the references in a manner resulting in the claimed invention. Third, a reasonable expectation of success must exist. Moreover, each of these requirements must "be found in the prior art, and not be based on applicants' disclosure." M.P.E.P. § 2143 (8th ed. 2001).

Independent claims 13 and 16 recite a combination including for example, "generating a second visual representation of a plurality of the records in the set." Applicants respectfully submit to the Examiner that at least this feature is not disclosed or suggested by Martz. Martz displays, in a second view, the object name, attribute name and value for the object over which the mouse is positioned. See Col. 11, lines 4-

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10. Applicants submit that the listing of attributes of a single record is not "generating a second visual representation of a plurality of the records in the set," as recited in claims 13 and 16. Furthermore, Caid does not cure the deficiencies of Martz for at least the reason that it does not disclose or suggest "generating a second visual representation of a plurality of the records in the set," as recited in claims 13 and 16. Accordingly, as the cited references do not teach or suggest, alone or in combination, all recited elements of claims 13 and 16, applicants respectfully submit that claims 13 and 16 are allowable. Applicants further submit that dependent claim 14, depending from claim 13, is also allowable.

Independent claim 17 recites a combination including for example, "means for generating a second visual representation of a plurality of the records in the set." Applicants respectfully submit to the Examiner that at least this feature is not disclosed or suggested by Martz. Martz displays, in a second view, the object name, attribute name and value for the object over which the mouse is positioned. See Col. 11, lines 4-10. Applicants submit that a means for listing the attributes of a single record is not "means for generating a second visual representation of a plurality of the records in the set," as recited in claim 17. Furthermore, Caid does not cure the deficiencies of Martz for at least the reason that it does not disclose or suggest "means for generating a second visual representation of a plurality of the records in the set," as recited in claim 17. Accordingly, as the cited references do not teach or suggest, alone or in combination, all recited elements of claims 17, applicants respectfully submit that claim 17 is therefore allowable.

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In view of the foregoing remarks, applicants respectfully request the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: May 13, 2002

By: Reg # 42,672 for
Richard V. Burgujian
Reg. No. 31,744

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APPENDIX TO AMENDMENT OF MAY 13, 2002

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A method of interactively displaying a set of records and their associated attributes, comprising:

defining a set of graphic images, wherein each graphic image represents a range of values;

generating a first surface map with (1) graphic images, representing attributes associated with [the records] each record in the set, arranged along a first dimension, and (2) the records, represented by a collection of graphic images, arranged along a second dimension;

generating a second visual representation of a plurality of the records in the set;

receiving input from a user selecting a [record] subset of the records from the first surface map; and

altering [a] the second visual representation [of the record in another view] to highlight the selected subset.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the [another view] second visual representation is a galaxy view [of clusters of records].

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8. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising analyzing an index to determine if [the record] one or more of the records in the selected subset is shown in [another view] the second visual representation.

12. (Amended) A computer-implemented method of interactively displaying records and their corresponding attributes, comprising:

providing a surface map representing a set of records;

linking the surface map to a set of views, wherein at least one of the views comprises a visual representation of a plurality of the records in the set;

receiving an input signal selecting a portion of the surface map; and

indicating, in a view linked to the surface map, at least one of the records corresponding to the selected portion.

13. (Amended) A method of interactively displaying a set of records and their corresponding attributes, comprising:

defining a set of graphic images, wherein each graphic image represents a range of values;

generating a three-dimensional surface map with (1) [records] each record in the set arranged along a first dimension, (2) graphic images, representing attributes associated with the records, arranged along a second dimension, and (3) the values associated with the attributes arranged along a third dimension;

generating a second visual representation of a plurality of the records in the set;

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receiving input from a user selecting a subset of the records [record] on the surface map;

analyzing an index to determine if the selected subset [record] is shown in [another view] the second visual representation; and

altering the second visual representation [of the record in the other view] based on the input, when the selected subset [record] is shown in [another view] the second visual representation.

16. (Amended) An apparatus for interactively displaying a set of records and their associated attributes, comprising:

at least one memory having program instructions; and

at least one processor configured to execute the program instructions to perform the operations of:

defining a set of graphic images, wherein each graphic image represents a range of values;

generating a first surface map with the records of the set arranged along a first dimension and graphic images, representing attributes associated with the records, arranged along a second dimension;

generating a second visual representation of a plurality of the records in the set;

receiving input from a user selecting a [record] subset of the records from the first surface map; and

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analyzing an index to determine if one or more records in the [record] selected subset are [is] shown in another view; and

altering the second visual representation [of the record in the another view] based on the input, when one or more records in the [record] selected subset are [is] shown in another view.

17. (Amended) An apparatus for interactively displaying a set of records and their associated attributes, comprising:

means for defining a set of graphic images, wherein each graphic image represents a range of values;

means for generating a first surface map with [a] the records of the set arranged along a first dimension and graphic images, representing attributes associated with the records, arranged along a second dimension;

means for generating a second visual representation of a plurality of the records from the set;

means for receiving input from a user selecting a subset of the records [record] on the surface map;

means for analyzing an index to determine if one or more records in the selected subset are [record is] shown in another view; and

means for altering the second visual representation [of the record in the another view] based on the input, when one or more records in the [record] selected subset are [is] shown in [another view] the second visual representation.

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